



# *The MASONIC PHILATELIST*

VOLUME II NO. 1



MARCH 1945

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

**EDITORIAL BOARD...** Harry M. Konwiser, Sam Brooks & Forrest Ellis  
Address them at 22 East 35th Street New York, on matters relating to this publication. Masonic Stamp Club Secretary...  
Arthur I. Heim, 115-66 Newburg St., St. Albans, Long Island, N.Y.

With this issue the "Masonic Philatelist" celebrates its first anniversary.

From a single-sheet issue in March 1944, it has developed to its present form richly illustrated, ever endeavouring to enrich the knowledge of Philately with its ramifications to Masonry. It also forms an indispensable link between the members, informing them about the progress and research work of the Club. This is particularly important at the present time, where many of our Brethren are unable to attend our meetings, due to war-time schedules.

To the editors of our Bulletin: Bro. Harry M. Konwiser, Sam Brooks and Forrest Ellis goes the entire credit for the success of our publication. For the many hours spent in editing and distributing the Bulletin, the Club owes them more than it will ever be able to express in words of gratitude. No small degree of satisfaction should be theirs in the ever increasing demand for our "Philatelist" by collectors all over the States, not connected with the Craft. Subscriptions, some with ready cash, were received from parts far beyond the borders of the U.S.A.; unfortunately due to our limited facilities at the present time, these cannot be accepted.

For the members of the Club as well as myself I can only Say: Many thanks to you for a job well done! Keep up the high standard of our Bulletin. And the best of luck for the SECOND VOLUME of the "Masonic Philatelist".

Dr. George Camnitzer, President

THE RED CROSS  
NEEDS YOUR HELP

GIVE  
NOW!  GIVE  
MORE!

## MEETINGS

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 23 | Sylvester Colby, well known specialist in 3¢ 1851's will speak & show his collection of #33's |
| April 6  | Annual Members' Exhibition  |

MEETINGS FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH  
COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING 22 East 35th St. N.Y.



## PURELY PERSONAL

Speaking of the Annual Dues, the Unpaid List, as of March, is under five. Which translated indicates about five members still have not remitted their dues. Of these, three will pay when the Treasurer takes time out to call on a Canadian fisherman for one, an auditor, an ex-Canadian for the other. Looking at the books it is noted one "Unpaid" resides in Finland, the other in Curacao. Just as soon as the Club Bank Roll warrants, the Treasurer will request permission to use same for a trip out of the U.S. to collect the Two Dollars due from two Brothers.

Two years ago, in remitting dues, Vander Beck wrote "Am working from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. so don't get a chance to get around, but hope to see the boys soon". In remitting for 1945 dues, the same Van writes "Will try to get up to see all the boys one of these days or rather nights but all I have been doing is going to work, coming home to eat and then to bed. Regards. I like the Club paper" Must be a busy chap, this Van feller.

Want the Meeting Nites Changed? Most of the present active members, when asked whether they'd prefer another night, as against First and Last Friday of each month, say "No preference". What about the many members who do not attend meetings regularly? Write your views. In the Masonic Stamp Club the majority rules, after free discussion has been had.

One of our members, remitting dues with unused three-cent Commems, regrets he could not pay off in 1c, 2c or 3c Columbians. The Treasurer didn't mind, and hopes members who do not receive U.S. Columbians on letters from him will take it up with Paul Rosner.

Walter McCoy wants to swap. Since he is to edit- or prepare or produce, or do all of these things to the next Stamp Congress Booklet, he might swap a story for the Masonic Bulletin, one of his own composition, for a Congress Manuscript. Seems equitable. Who wants to help out Bro. McCoy?

Dave Bill is still writing that French Collection story for this paper, one might assume. Writers often go into seclusion to produce their copy, and so- if that is what Dave is doing, good.

Walter H. Koons, one of our seldom-present members, writes of his interest in the Club paper, and maybe some of us don't know Bro. Koons is "in the South" in Independent Royal Arch Lodge, which meets in the Temple. Maybe Brother Koons will fix up a Stamp Hobbyist Night "show" for his lodge and ask Charlie Johnson to preside for the special nite.

Our last meeting brought out most of the regulars and a couple of old friends. Brother Pollick promises to come more often. And our old friend Fred Wendel, may get around now that his work for Uncle Sam doesn't keep him up nights.

## INFORMATION WANTED

There is a persistent rumor that THERE IS A STAMP LODGE that is a Masonic Lodge, chartered by a Grand Lodge (in the United States) which is known as "a stamp lodge" or "a lodge created by stamp collectors".

Recent statements made caused this inquiry: "Where and when"? and the reply seems to be: "I heard it".

Will someone please tell it to the editors of this bulletin?

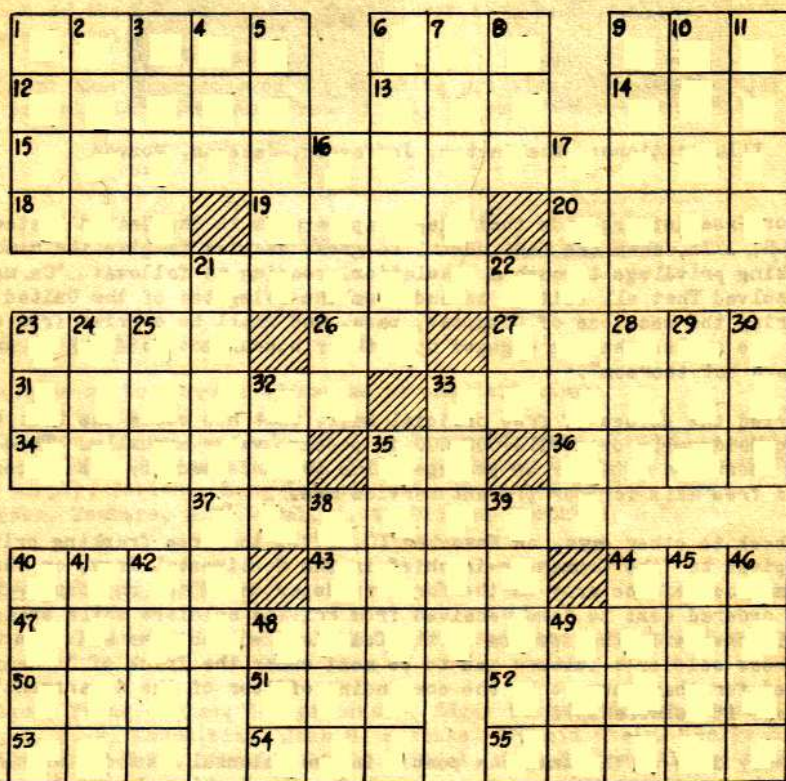
## PHILATELIC MASONS AT RENO

Louis Krieger (formerly of New York City) reports his new address as Route No. 1, Box 259, Reno, Nevada. When last heard from, Solo Goldsmith was at the Parkway Hotel, Reno.



# A COLLECTOR'S CROSSWORD

by Art Brooks



## ACROSS

- 1-Postmarked envelope
- 6-Gum breaker
- 9-Your favorite uncle
- 12-Turkish town
- 13-Beverage
- 14-Swiss canton
- 15-Contingencies
- 18-Period of time
- 19-UNITED STATES A269
- 20-State (French)
- 21-Leeward
- 23-Arabian sultanate
- 26-Printer's measure
- 27-Battleground of World War II
- 31-Washer
- 33-Stone tablets
- 34-Exalt
- 35-Earth goddess
- 36-Nothing (French)
- 37-Nuts
- 40-Source of aniline printing inks
- 43-Gaelic or Irish

44-British error:

"Poached \_\_\_\_"

47-Confederate

provisional

50- Penny Black

51-Inlet

52-Philatelist's pride

53-Affirmative

54-Rationed item

55-Bangs

## DOWN

- 1- Juby
- 2-Aroma
- 3-FINLAND A20
- 4-Being
- 5-Plane attacks
- 6-Mohammedan festival
- 7-Green Mountain boy
- 8-Brazilian coin
- 9-Legal action
- 10-Space
- 11-Fog
- 16-Philippine town
- 17-Old English coins
- 21-Put in office

22-Decree

23-Swedish coin

24-\_\_reis

25-Literary scraps

28-SYRIA A25: \_\_ Bek el Abed

29-New Guinea town

30-Japanese coin

32-Slippery fish

33-Feeling

35-CANAL ZONE A35

38-Ancient Persia

39-Hindu gods

40-Chinese port

41-Residential value showing Wm. H. Harrison

42-Islands (French)

44-Site of Napoleon's exile

45-Dismal

46-Your stamps

48-Work unit

49-Ailing





Illustrations: Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Monroe

Franked or free letters made their legal appearance in the United States on November 8, 1775, when the Continental Congress decided to give its members the franking privilege through a resolution, reading as follows: "On motion made, Resolved That all letters to and from the delegates of the United Colonies, during the sessions of Congress, pass, and shall be carried free of postage, the members having engaged upon their honour not to frank or enclose any letters but thereon".

This started the deluge of free official mail, that now costs the U.S. Government considerably over \$115,000,000 in postage value annually. This sum has been increased (insofar as postage value is concerned) by the properly permitted free mail for our present service men.

Getting back to other days, on November 10, 1775, the free franking privilege was given to "the Commander-in-chief in the Continental Army, or the chief commander of the army in the Northern department" and on January 9, 1776 Mail was ordered sent to "and received from Private soldiers while engaged in actual service in the defense of the Colonies, without the exaction of any fee". These soldier's letters had to be sent under the frank of "some person authorized for that purpose by the commanding officer of the department" (today we call it censorship)!

In the early days of the American post - in the Colonial Period - when Benjamin Franklin was deputy postmaster general for the English Crown, free mail was not prolific. The system of free mail to officials came to the Americas from London (it's as old English custom, let's say).

The United States - in the form known to most of us - began to legislate for free mail on Sept. 22, 1789. At that time free mailing rights were given, by act of Congress, to the President, the Vice-President, Cabinet officers and to the members of Congress (of course), and to several departments, restricting the franking right to letters not over 2 ounces.

On January 22, 1790, Samuel Osgood, Postmaster General reporting to Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury stated that franking letters had extended too far. (Almost every P.M.G. SINCE THEN HAS HAD THE SAME IDEA).

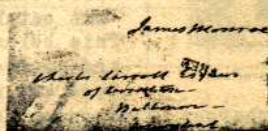
As far as collectors are concerned the idea seems to be to acquire a Presidential frank, plus the Vice-President of the Administration and the Cabinet members. Naturally some of these collections can be so arranged as to show History. Some administrations are more colorful than others, some more historic - all throughly American and so, as far as collecting is concerned, this is pure Americana.

Folded letters show the recorded autograph, the signature required to pass the letter free - as far as the sender is concerned. It was not free in the ordinary sense of the word in 1794. At that time and later, post offices credited themselves with two cents for putting the letter through their offices.



Stamp collectors can use the Presidential series as a side line to Presidential franks! And there are many Masonic angles to this because so many of our Presidents were members of the Masonic craft, as were their Cabinet members, most of the eminents in warfare - over the years; and many leaders in politics and statesmanship.

Many eminent Americans enjoyed the franking privilege, you might enjoy the idea of association with these men if only through their signatures!



- H.M.K.

### ADDRESSES REQUIRED

Please advise as to correct addresses of the following:

Edward Johnson, Laurelton, L.L., N.Y. - Sidney Maranov, Rockville Center, N.Y.  
 Frank L. Meisch, 87 Nassau Street, N.Y.C. - Thomas O'Donnell, Forest Hills, N.Y.  
 William Murphy, Jericho, Long Island, N.Y., reported in U.S. Army  
 Frank Sasso, Yonkers, N.Y. - Col. A. W. Wilson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

### OLD MEMBERS. PLEASE NOTE

The Club would like to hear from some of the old timers, among whom are the following:

Louis Beyer, Frank Curico, George Donner, Edgar Donner, Joseph Friesser, Henry Graepel, A. J. H. Leuchthing, John H. Roschke, Francis Rhein, George Silvera, Henry Salisbury, Ralph Sherman, Rubin Spiegel, W.S. Taylor, Alfred Wittick.

Some of these haven't been heard from in many moons, and the Club officers want to know why they have kept away from meetings for one thing, and another: What Are They Doing In Stamps?

### NATIONAL WAR FUND STAMP AUCTION

This year's auction for the benefit of the National War Fund, is being sponsored by the Collectors Club, who have asked for the cooperation of all stamp clubs in the United States. You no doubt know that these contributions will be used for the U.S.O., United Seamen's Service, War Prisoners' Aid and 28 other agencies devoted to our Armed Forces. You are requested to make contributions either in cash or in stamps which may be auctioned.

Please send all your contributions to the club.

TWO TYPES OF RED CROSS SLOGAN CANCELS...HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OTHERS?







Seychelles #27 with inverted "n"

## SEYCHELLES SURCHARGES

BY

HENRY M. FRIEDMAN

The stamps of Seychelles offer an unusual opportunity for specialization and study, inasmuch as the first stamp was not issued until 1890 and the highest catalogue price is \$11.00 (excluding errors). This colony was prolific in the use of surcharges and as these were all overprinted locally with old type and native labor, many errors resulted, such as inverted surcharges, letters out of alignment, broken letters, omission of part of surcharge and many minor variations from the normal.

Changes in rate provided the reason for the first surcharges in 1893--- 3¢ on 4¢, 12¢ on 16¢, 15¢ on 16¢, 45¢ on 40¢ and 90¢ on 96¢. A number of errors occurred, double surcharge, inverted surcharge, cents omitted and hundreds of different positions, such as 3¢ over 'E' of cents and 3¢ over 'N' of cents, also 12¢ over 'CEN' of cents and 12¢ over 'NTS' of cents. In 1939 the writer discovered a previously unreported error on Scott's # 22, an inverted 'N' in cents causing it to appear as 'CENTS'. Only two copies of this error are known to exist.

The 45¢ stamp issued in 1893 was not found to be a useful denomination and needing 18¢ and 36¢ stamps, the latter were created temporarily in 1896 with the usual assortment of errors and varieties. We also find many split surcharges causing the same to read 'CENTS 18' or 'ENTS 18 C' and value omitted entirely, bars only being shown. Again in 1901 there was an epidemic of surcharging three different provisionals appearing within a short time. This was due to the fact that the entire stock of 3¢ stamps were bought by speculators, who also bought up the first and second surcharged stamps. Here the 15¢, 18¢ and 45¢ were surcharged 3¢ and again the customary errors and varieties. This series of surcharges also produced an inverted specimen. In 1901, there being a shortage of 6¢ value and very little use for a large stock of 8¢ stamps, the latter were all surcharged 6¢ and again the errors and varieties. In 1902, there was another outbreak of surcharging. It was decided that the 45¢ value discarded in 1896 was needed and also a 30¢ value, so pending receipt of new supplies from London, these values were created by surcharging as also a 2¢ value which was needed -- and -- again the errors and varieties. The 1903 stamps had been in use only a few months when there was a shortage of the 3¢ value, the entire issue having again been bought by speculators. The provisional 3¢ on 15¢ was soon in the hands of these speculators in spite of the rule that no more than 50 of the 3¢ value could be purchased at any one time. It was necessary to surcharge the 15¢, 18¢ and 45¢ values to replenish supplies of the 3¢ stamp.

The possibilities of these surcharged stamps of Seychelles is by no means exhausted. The writer recently bought from the estate of an old time dealer, a large stock of surcharged Seychelles stamps and a pane of 60 of Scott's # 23 shows stamp # 40 with an inverted 'N'. A large supply of blocks of Scott's # 27 shows 5 blocks with one stamp in each block with a narrow 'E'. This is not the result of broken type, but is an entirely different type of 'E'. Pending further study these have not as yet been submitted to Scott or to the Philatelic press.

To the list of Masons honored by the American Philatelic Congress at Philadelphia, Dec. 1-3, 1944, as mentioned in the January Masonic Philatelist, add W.R. McCoy who was elected Vice President of the Congress.

# buy war bonds



## MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23

This was supposed to be a competition of Masonic Philately, but only one exhibitor showed up. So Sam Brooks was the lucky recipient of the prize donated by Dr. S. Duffield Swan. Thank you Doctor.

## THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

On March 2nd we were honored by a visit of members of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. The speakers were introduced by our own Carl Pelander.

Mr. Arthur Linz, showed the 1859 issues of PERU. We saw the stamps and learned much of the postal history of that country.

Mr. Frank Mayberry showed a beautiful group of the stamps of the NETHERLANDS.

Mr. Bill Falck displayed the postal history of Norway as shown in Sea-post Markings, Railway Postal Markings, and special cancellations. He then showed some of his research on NORWAY NO. 1.

Carl Pelander put the lid on a fine show by displaying one volume from the collection of FERRARS TOWS', DANISH WEST INDIES.

Thank you very much gentlemen. We hope to see you again soon.

## OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

With this issue, the Masonic Philatelist begins its second year. For one whole year your editors have managed to get out this paper for your enjoyment and perhaps enlightenment. We've had a lot of fun in doing it and if we've contributed to your enjoyment of your membership in the Masonic Stamp Club, we have been well repaid.

In all fairness however, we must thank those who have assisted in any way in making this Bulletin possible. To all of you many thanks for your constant encouragement. With your assistance we will strive to make this a better paper with each issue.

## THE MAN ON THE COVER

Samuel Langhorne Clemens  
"Mark Twain"

Born- November 30, 1825 at Florida, Mo.  
Died- April 21, 1910 at Redding, Conn.

Raised - July 10, 1861 in Polar Star  
Lodge No. 79, St. Louis, Mo.

Printer, river pilot, Secretary to the Governor of Nevada Territory. Later he was a prospector, miner, and then a journalist. His first book published in 1867 was "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras". Then came "Innocents Abroad," "A Tramp Abroad," "Tom Sawyer," and "Huckleberry Finn."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| A | D | A | N | A | A | L | E | U | R | I |
| P | O | S | S | I | B | I | L | I | T | I |
| E | R | A | D | A | R | E | E | T | A | T |
| I | S | L | A | N | D | S |   |   |   |   |
| O | M | A | N | E | M | I | T | A | L | I |
| R | I | N | S | E | R | S | T | E | L | A |
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| Y | E | S | G | A | S | S | L | A | M | S |



1923  
Perf. 12

CONGO



*Please Purchase Bonds  
to the  
Briestley*



Designed by E. Vlaors  
Engraved and Printed by  
American Bank Note Co.

From the collection of  
Arthur I. Heim  
Secretary of the Masonic Stamp Club